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09/574,726, filed May 18, 2000. The disclosures of these applications are incorporated herein by reference.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

A3 14. (Amended) A method of managing a universe of identifiers, some of said identifiers being active and having internet resources associated therewith, and others of said identifiers being inactive, the method including receiving a query corresponding to an inactive identifier and, in response, initiating a time-limited auction, a winner of said auction being granted the privilege of associating an internet resource with said identifier for at least a predetermined time period.

*Please add new claims 20-27 as follows:

20. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein a primary function of the database is to link consumers to internet resources, such as web pages, that promote goods or services that are related to the media content objects and that are offered by commercial entities, and said user is one of said consumers, wherein the consumer can participate in such linking in a manner customarily reserved to the commercial entities.

A4 21. (New) The method of claim 1 that includes automatically providing the identifier from a process on a user device - such as a computer - to the database, without requiring the user to type or otherwise manually enter the identifier.

22. (New) The method of claim 4 wherein a primary function of the database is to link consumers to internet resources, such as web pages, that promote goods or services that are related to media content objects and that are offered by commercial

entities, and said party is one of said consumers, wherein the consumer can participate in such linking in a manner customarily reserved to the commercial entities.

23. (New) The method of claim 1 that includes automatically providing the identifier from a process on a device maintained by said party - such as a computer - to the database, without requiring said party to type or otherwise manually enter the identifier.

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24. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said identifiers and internet resources are associated through a database, a primary function of which is to link consumers to internet resources that promote goods or services that are related to media content objects and that are offered by commercial entities, and said winner is one of said consumers, wherein the consumer can participate in such linking in a manner customarily reserved to the commercial entities.

25. (New) The method of claim 14 that includes automatically deriving the identifier using a device maintained by said winner, without requiring said winner to type or otherwise manually enter the identifier.

26. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein a primary function of the database is to link consumers to internet resources that promote goods or services that are related to media content objects.

27. (New) The method of claim 16 that includes automatically deriving the identifier from a media content object.
